

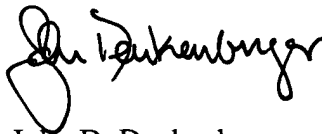
REMARKS

Claims 1-3, 5-20, 22-28, 36, and 38-49 are pending in the present application. In an Office Action mailed September 23, 2005, Claims 20, 22, and 29-35 were withdrawn. Claims 1 and 36, and certain dependent claims stemming therefrom, were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b). Claims 2, 3, 5-12, 14, 15, 21, 38, and 40-49 were noted as containing allowable subject matter if rewritten in independent form. Finally, Claims 23-28 were allowed. Applicant thanks the Examiner for the notice of allowable and allowed subject matter.

Applicant has amended independent Claims 1, 23, and 36 to incorporate certain dependent claims indicated as allowable. Specifically, Claim 1 has been amended to include dependent Claim 2 indicated as allowable. Claim 23 has been amended to include allowable dependent Claim 24. Finally, the limitations of allowable dependent Claim 38 have been incorporated into Claim 36. In view of the forgoing, the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102 are moot.

The Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned with any remaining issues regarding this matter.

Respectfully submitted,
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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the U.S. Postal Service in a sealed envelope as first class mail with postage thereon fully prepaid and addressed to Mail Stop Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on the below date.

Date: March 23, 2006 Carolyn D. Jones JDD:cg

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